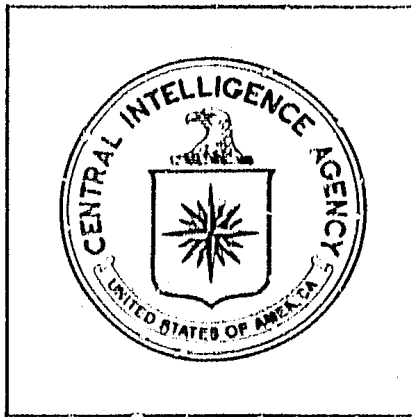


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Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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MBFR Talks

The Soviets somewhat modified their stand on one of the issues that has stalemated the MBFR talks in Vienna. At an informal meeting last week, the chief Soviet delegate offered to enter a discussion of "definitions" of what should be included under ground forces and air forces. The Soviets indicated that these definitions should cover both personnel and armaments in terms of "elements of structure" such as "units" or "divisions." They still strongly oppose discussing actual numbers of troops, or kinds of equipment.

The Soviet move, which apparently constitutes their promised initiative for this negotiating round, is an effort to move part way toward NATO's desire to discuss data questions.

The Warsaw Pact position has been that questions of "principle" had to be settled before an analysis of data could be undertaken. Now, Moscow seems willing to discuss "definitions" and "principles" in parallel.

The "principles" with which the Warsaw Pact is primarily concerned are the questions of whose forces and what forces should be reduced. Since the negotiations began, the Soviets have been trying to ensure that all NATO participants, especially the West Germans, are involved in the reduction process from the start. The Soviets fear that unless there is such a commitment, NATO will be able to reduce its forces without affecting the size of the West German Bundeswehr. The Soviets also want to get NATO to include air and nuclear forces in the reductions.

The Soviet initiative may be designed as a token of future Warsaw Pact flexibility before the current round of talks ends on July 22. The Soviets may also hope it will give some substance to their assertions that

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political detente in Europe--to be consecrated at a CSCE summit--should be followed by military detente.

Meanwhile, the Pact delegates seem content to wait for NATO to broach formally its nuclear proposal. On Monday the NATO allies began discussion of that proposal which would offer to withdraw US nuclear warheads and delivery systems in return for Soviet withdrawal of armored forces.

The allies generally agree that the offer should be made as an inducement to end the deadlock in Vienna, but they have reservations about various aspects of the proposal. They are particularly concerned that the US withdrawal of nuclear-capable aircraft and missiles will lead the Soviets to demand that the other NATO participants reduce the number of their aircraft and missiles.

The allies also want the West to insist that the Soviets not only agree to withdraw armored forces, but also to accept in specific terms the Western proposal for a common ceiling on both NATO and Warsaw Pact ground forces in Central Europe.

The discussion in Brussels on Monday indicated that several allies support the British and German view that there should be a full-scale review within NATO of the technical and military implications of the nuclear offer. The debate would occasionally be difficult, but the allies will probably reach agreement on the nuclear offer before the next round of negotiations in Vienna opens in September.

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Soviet - West German Economic
Commission Meeting Goes Smoothly

The Soviet - West German joint economic commission meeting, which was held in Bonn between June 9 and 11, apparently went smoothly. There was little evidence that Moscow's misgivings about the durability of the Schmidt government or the strength of its commitment to better relations with the USSR had an impact on their mutually beneficial economic ties. As a result of the session, Bonn believes that economic contacts between the two countries have reached the stage where they can be handled routinely through normal business channels.

The joint commission devoted considerable attention to the recent sharp tilt in West Germany's favor in the two nations' trade balance. The problem lies partly in the Soviet inability to come up with sufficiently attractive finished goods to close the gap, but largely in the ballooning of Soviet imports from West Germany. The Soviets did not push for a quick solution, evidently calculating that future Soviet deliveries of gas and other raw materials and semi-processed goods will correct the trade imbalance.

The Soviets inquired about the availability of government-subsidized trade credits, pointing to those extended by the British and the French, but the West Germans responded negatively.

There was some progress in the area of industrial cooperation, with prospects for cooperation appearing best in the machine tool, ceramics, paper and pulp, wood processing, and raw materials sectors. The two sides also moved closer to an agreement on the Soviet - West German - Iranian gas deal, which will eventually enable the West Germans to import Iranian natural gas through Soviet facilities.

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Not discussed at the joint commission meeting was the controversial West German - built nuclear power plant proposed for Kaliningrad. East Germany has objected to Bonn's stipulation that power from this plant be routed to West Germany via West Berlin so that West Berlin can draw on West German power sources should electrical current from Kaliningrad be curtailed for any reason. The head of the Soviet delegation claimed to have no mandate to discuss this issue, although West German Chancellor Schmidt made clear Bonn's concern over the continuing stalemate. The West Germans believe that the East German objections may carry sufficient weight in Moscow to prevent the project from being realized.

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Romania: Jewish Emigration

Bucharest is trying hard to convince the US, and especially the Congress, that its policy on Jewish emigration warrants passage of legislation that would grant Romania most-favored-nation status.

The titular leader of Romania's Jewish community, Rabbi Rosen, recently told US diplomats that he is under heavy pressure from the regime to "find" Jews willing to leave the country.

In conversations with the embassy's deputy chief of mission, Rosen quoted Ceausescu's adviser on security affairs as saying, "Give me 10,000 names, and I guarantee 9,000 passports." He accordingly issued instructions to all Jewish communities on June 20 to collect in three days the names of all Jews who want to leave.

Rosen claims, however, that only a small portion of Romania's estimated 60,000 Jews want to depart. He said that all the "idealists" have left, others are of an advanced age, and the remainder harbor anxieties about starting a new life in another country. He also noted that past practice suggests that any emigres who sign up now will not be able to leave the country for several months.

Whether or not this spate of activity leads to an actual increase in the number of Jewish immigrants, Bucharest wants to convey the impression that it is doing its best.

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Gierek in Moscow

Last week East German party leader Honecker made a short and unheralded visit to Moscow to talk to Brezhnev. On Monday, it was Polish party chief Gierek's turn.

Gierek got the same treatment in the Soviet media as Honecker, and indeed, the topics of his discussion with Brezhnev seem to have been much the same; preparations for their respective party congresses; prospects for closer economic, cultural, and other cooperation; and, most important, coordination of efforts in the making of the next (1976-80) five year plan. The last is also being discussed at the current CEMA ministerial meeting in Budapest. Gierek may also have briefed Brezhnev on the successful results of French President Giscard's recent visit to Warsaw.

The brevity of the visits and the positive Soviet treatment suggest that the talks went well. It may be that the Soviets, by starting off with Honecker and Gierek, hope to create an atmosphere that will make it more difficult for the Romanians to oppose Soviet efforts to achieve greater economic integration. Brezhnev may also be getting his ducks in a row before such international gatherings as the European security summit and European Communist party conference.

It is possible that one-day bilateral visits will be this year's surrogate for a Crimean summit of East European party leaders. (Crimean meetings were held from 1971 through 1973, but not last year.) If so, the Bulgarian, Hungarian, and Czechoslovak leaders ought to be showing up in Moscow soon.

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Bulgaria's Todor Zhivkov
Talks with Ceausescu in Romania

The Zhivkov-Ceausescu talks in Romania last week made progress on economic issues, but political differences continue. In the past, Zhivkov has talked with Ceausescu, presumably at Moscow's behest, in an effort to persuade the recalcitrant Romanian leader to modify his independent stance.

This is the third time in little more than a year that the two leaders have met for "summit-level" talks. At last week's meeting the two sides agreed to construct a machine building enterprise on the Romanian-Bulgarian border, and Bucharest also bowed to Sofia's long-held desire to build a hydroelectric complex on the Danube River. By being somewhat more cooperative with staunchly pro-Soviet Sofia, Bucharest may hope to stave off reported Soviet efforts for tighter economic integration at the CEMA ministerial talks that opened on June 24 in Budapest [REDACTED]

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Ceausescu may have been hinting that he was seeking to relieve pressure from Moscow when he stressed that Romanian-Bulgarian cooperation "can be a model of the new kind of relations between socialist countries." He added that relations must be carried out in the spirit of "full equality of rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, and noninterference in internal affairs."

The two leaders apparently agreed to disagree on political issues facing the international Communist movement, including preparations for the European Communist conference. Ceausescu called for increased unity based on the independence of each party, while Zhivkov advocated solidarity along stricter, more Soviet-oriented lines. The Romanian also underscored the similarities between Bucharest's policies and those of the third world.

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The leaders agreed on the need for Balkan co-operation, noting that "all the litigious issues among the Balkan states can and must be solved by peaceful means," and on such other issues as Cyprus, the Middle East, and the rights of the Palestinians.

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CHRONOLOGY

June 17

East German party chief Honecker pays a brief, official visit to Moscow and meets with Brezhnev. [REDACTED]

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Romanian chief of staff Coman begins a one-week, official visit to Portugal. [REDACTED]

25X1

USSR signs the international convention on registry of objects launched into outer space. [REDACTED]

25X1

East German Deputy Foreign Minister Grunert begins an official visit to Argentina. [REDACTED]

25X1

The US and the USSR resume plenary meetings at Geneva on prospects for an agreement to limit military environmental modification activities. [REDACTED]

25X1

French President Giscard d'Estaing, accompanied by Foreign Minister Sauvagnargues and Interior Minister Poniatowski, commences a four-day, state visit to Poland, his first to a Communist nation since becoming president. [REDACTED]

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June 18

President Ford confers with visiting Soviet Deputy Premier I. Novikov. [REDACTED]

Hungarian party chief Kadar confers with visiting Soviet party secretary Dolgikh. [REDACTED]

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US-Soviet joint committee on housing and other construction concludes its first meeting, a three-day session in Washington. [REDACTED]

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June 18

USSR and Somalia sign an agreement in Mogadiscio providing an additional \$60 million in Soviet economic assistance. [REDACTED]

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Visiting Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu meets with Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi, Prime Minister Salim, and President Sadat. [REDACTED]

25X1

Tass announces that the official slate in Sunday's republic Supreme Soviet elections received 99.95% of the vote from a turnout of 99.96% of all eligible voters. [REDACTED]

25X1

Tass publishes a government warning to Japan not to include any anti-Soviet language in its proposed friendship treaty with China. [REDACTED]

25X1

Bulgarian Interior Minister Stoyanov begins an official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

Belgian Foreign Minister Van Elslande begins a four-day, official visit to Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

25X1

Albania and Laos announce their agreement to establish full diplomatic relations. [REDACTED]

25X1

June 19

East German Politburo member Axen concludes two days of talks in Belgrade mainly on preparations for a European Communist party conference. [REDACTED]

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The White House discloses that President Ford has received a letter from Brezhnev suggesting July 22 as the opening date for a CSCE summit-level finale in Finland. [REDACTED]

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June 19

The US and the USSR begin two days of consultations in Moscow on Law of the Sea issues. [REDACTED]

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East German Volkshammer convenes.
[REDACTED]

25X1

June 20

Hungarian Foreign Minister Puja begins a four-day, official visit to Kuwait. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Defense Minister Grechko confers with visiting Czechoslovak Defense Minister Dzur. [REDACTED]

25X1

Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu concludes a four-day, official visit to Egypt. [REDACTED]

25X1

Bulgaria and Mauritius announce an agreement to establish diplomatic relations. [REDACTED]

25X1

Politburo candidate-member Ponomarev begins a six-day, official visit to Syria. [REDACTED]

25X1

French President Giscard d'Estaing concludes a four-day, state visit to Poland; he announces a grant of \$1.7 billion in credits to Poland to be available over a three-year period.
[REDACTED]

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The US announces that the resumption of SALT has been postponed from June 23 to July 2 at the request of the USSR.
[REDACTED]

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June 20 Bulgarian party/state chief Zhivkov concludes a five-day visit to Romania.

25X1

June 21 Yugoslavia commences a ban on imports of a wide range of consumer goods because of the nation's dire trade imbalance.

25X1

US and Soviet negotiators reach ad referendum agreement on a draft treaty to limit environmental modifications for purposes of gaining military advantages.

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June 22 Visiting Politburo candidate-member Ponomarev confers separately in Damascus with Syrian President Asad and fedayeen leader Arafat.

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East German Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Albrecht begins a five-day, official visit to France.

25X1

June 23 Bulgarian party/state chief Zhivkov commences a two-day, official visit and several days of vacation in Italy.

25X1

East German Foreign Minister Fischer begins a four-day, official visit to Denmark.

25X1

President Ford confers with the visiting Soviet aviators who made the first trans-polar flight in 1937.

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Belgian King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola, accompanied by Prime Minister Tindemans

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June 23

and Foreign Minister Van Elslande, begin a ten-day state visit to the USSR.

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Cosmonauts aboard Salyut-4 set a Soviet space endurance record.

25X1

Indonesian President Suharto commences an extended trip which will include a state visit to Yugoslavia.

25X1

Polish party chief Gierek makes a one-day visit to Moscow and meets with Brezhnev.

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June 24

31-nation Geneva disarmament conference, co-chaired by the US and the USSR, convenes for its summer session.

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Premiers of CEMA member-states convene in Budapest for their annual meeting.

25X1

US frigate Wainwright concludes a five-day, official port call at Constanta, Romania.

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FUTURE EVENTS

June 25

USSR and a number of East European states to establish diplomatic relations with Mozambique on its independence day.

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Former West German Chancellor Brandt to begin an official visit to Yugoslavia.

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June 26

Polish Machine Industry Minister Wrzaszczyk, whose ministry is considering potential imports of more than \$1 billion from the US, to conclude an eleven-day, official visit to the US. [REDACTED]

25X1

Foreign Minister Gromyko expected to arrive in Italy for a four-day, official visit. [REDACTED]

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June 27

Exiled Soviet author Solzhenitsyn to begin a five-day visit to Washington. [REDACTED]

25X1

A congressional delegation headed by Senators Hugh Scott and Hubert Humphrey scheduled to begin an official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

June 30

Trinidad-Tobago Prime Minister Williams to commence an eight-day, official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

late June -
early July

Foreign Minister Gromyko expected to make an official visit to Canada. [REDACTED]

25X1

July 1

[REDACTED]

25X1

Franco-Soviet *grande commission* to convene. [REDACTED]

25X1

Bulgarian National Assembly to convene. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

July 2 SALT to resume at Geneva. [REDACTED]

25X1

Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis to begin
a three-day, official visit to Bulgaria.
[REDACTED]

Former West German chancellor Brandt
to begin a one-week, official visit to
the USSR. [REDACTED]

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July 7

Trinidad-Tobago Prime Minister Williams
to begin a six-day, official visit to
Romania. [REDACTED]

25X1

July 9

US and the USSR to resume talks on
their Pacific Ocean fisheries problems.
[REDACTED]

25X1

July 15

RSFSR Supreme Soviet to convene. [REDACTED]

25X1

Apollo-Soyuz joint space venture to
commence. [REDACTED]

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